

II. Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-21, and 23 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12-14, 17-19, 21, and 23 stand rejected. Claims 3, 9, 15, and 20 are allowed. The present amendment adds new claims 24-27, cancels claims 1, 12, 13, and 23, and amends claims 2, 5, 6, 10, 14, 16-19, and 21 to generally depend from allowed claims 3 and 15. After this amendment, claims 2, 3, 5-10, 14-21, and 24-27 will be pending. Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thankfully acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 3, 9, 15, and 20. To further prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 12, 13, and 23 and amended the dependencies of claims 2, 5, 6, 10, 14, 16-19, and 21 to depend upon one of allowed claims 3 and 15. Applicants have added new claims 24-27 which generally depend upon one of allowed claims 9 and 20.

Since claims 2, 5, 6, 10, 14, 16-19, 21, and 24-27 depend from allowed claims 3, 9, 15, and 20, the reasons for allowance of claims 3, 9, 15, and 20 apply as well to the dependent claims.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 2, 3, 5-10, 14-21, and 24-27 are patentably distinguishable over the art of record. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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